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Message Text

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53
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /084 W
---------- 098464
R 070800Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9452
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10122

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IR
SUBJ: 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUDEH PARTY OF IRAN -
IN EXILE

1. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE TUDEH PARTY OF IRAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE PARTY'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY SEPT. 23 BEAMED A STATEMENT TO IRAN VIA CLANDESTINE RADIO IN PERSIAN ENTITLED, "TOWARD THE UNITY OF ACTION OF ALL THE ANTI-REGIME FORCES IN ORDER TO OVERTHROW DICTATORSHIP." THE 1,000 WORD STATEMENT RECALLS THE PARTY'S "TREMENDOUS SERVICES" TO THE IRANIAN PEOPLE "IN SPITE OF DIFFICULT CONDITIONS." SPEAKING AS THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRAN, THE PARTY CLAIMS THAT IT HAS CONSTANTLY AND PERSISTENTLY DEFENDED ALL THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS, HAS STRUGGLED AGAINST IMPERIALISM, HAS BATTLED AGAINST REACTION AND HAS EXPOSED THE CRIMES OF FORCES HOSTILE TO IRAN. WHILE SUPPORTING THE OVERTHROW OF THE PRESENT REGIME IN IRAN, THE STATEMENT DOES CHASTISE "THOSE WHO FRITTER AWAY THEIR REVOLUTIONARY ENERGIES IN INCONCLUSIVE ADVENTURES AND FOOLHARDY ACTS (WHICH) WILL NOT BRING ABOUT ANY PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOAL THEY HAVE IN MIND."
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2. IN THE SAME MESSAGE THE PARTY CLAIMS THAT IT HAS CONSISTENTLY STOOD UP TO "LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST DEVIATION" FROM MARXIST-LENINIST THOUGHT. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT IN MARCH 1976 THE PRO-MOSCOW LEADER OF THE OUTLAWED TUDEH PARTY, IRAJ ESKANDARI, CONGRATULATED THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY ON ITS 25TH CONGRESS. IN HIS MESSAGE ESKANDARI SAID PEKING "AGGRAVATES WORLD CONFLICTS," AND PRC LEADERS "OPPOSE PROGRESSIVE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS" AND COURT PARTNERS AMONG " THE MOST REACTIONARY IMPERIAL-ISTIC GROUPS."

3. IN OCTOBER 1975 THE GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED PRIVATE WEEKLY "F.Y.I." CHARACTERIZED THE PRO-MOSCOW TUDEHITES (PRESUMABLY THOSE ACTING OUTSIDE IRAN) AS MORE DANGEROUS TO IRAN THAN THE PRO-PEKING TUDEHITES. THIS WAS BECAUSE OF THE "FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF THE PRC," AND BECAUSE THE PRO-MOSCOW ELEMENTS WERE GIVING ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE DHOFAR REBELLION AND HAVE THE "MASSIVE BACKING" OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THIS DISTINC-TION BETWEEN FACTIONS OF THE TUDEH PARTY IS REFLECTED UP TO THE PRESENT TIME IN LOCAL PRESS TREATMENT OF THE USSR AND PRC (TEHRAN 8932 AND 9091).

4. BACKGROUND AND ASSESSMENT: THE TUDEH PARTY, ORGANIZED IN 1942, OPERATED OPENLY IN IRAN AS A MINORITY POLITICAL PARTY UNTIL 1949 WHEN A PARTY MEMBER ATTEMPTED TO ASSASSINATE THE SHAH. AT THAT TIME THE PARTY WAS OUT-LAWED, WITH MANY LEADERS ESCAPING TO EUROPE, PARTICULARLY EAST GERMANY. UNDERGROUND ELEMENTS REMAINED IN IRAN AND CONTINUED IN OPPOSITION TO THE SHAH AND IN SUPPORT OF DR. MOS-SADEQ UNTIL THE LATTER'S FALL FROM POWER IN 1953. THEIR SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES WERE MORE LIMITED, MAINLY DISTRIBUTION OF PROPAGANDA MATERIALS DURING THE 1960S AND 1970S. AT PRESENT THE PARTY IS SPLIT BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC. THE PRO-MOSCOW ORGANIZATION OPERATES A CLANDESTINE RADION WHICH BROADCASTS ANTI-REGIME PROPAGANDA INTO IRAN SUCH AS THE ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED ABOVE. HOWEVER, THE PARTY HAS NEVER REGAINED THE INFLUENCE WITHIN IRAN WHICH IT HAD DURING THE MOSSADEQ PERIOD AND APPEARS IN FACT UNABLE TO GARNER ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW SUPPORT DESPITE ITS CONTINUING PROPA-
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GANDA BARRAGE OVER THE AIRWAVES. THE PRO-PRC GROUP HAS SIMILARLY BEEN INACTIVE WITHIN IRAN SINCE 1970 ALTHOUGH IT WAS VISIBLE IN IRAQ UNTIL THE IRAN-IRAQ AGREEMENT OF 1975 AND IS PRESENTLY BUSY AMONG IRANIAN STUDENT CIRCLES IN EUROPE.

5. SINCE THE TUDEH PARTY IS ILLEGAL IN IRAN, PARTY MEMBERS ARE PROSECUTED AND IMPRISONED IN CONVICTED. ALTHOUGH AN

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EXACT FIGURE IS NOT AVAILABLE, EMBOFF HAS ONE REPORT
FROM A KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE THAT BETWEEN 100 AND 200
PARTY MEMBERS CURRENTLY REMAIN IN PRISON.
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